



## Dan Kosick

Year of Induction: **2023**

Year of Graduation: **1995**

For Dan Kosick, an obstacle only means a challenge and an opportunity. Athletics has always been an important part of his life. Even his presentation to young athletes entitled, “Living Without Limitations” gives one an understanding of the motivation that drives Kosick to excel. Perseverance, determination, and a positive attitude are all terms that shape his personal philosophy for every part of his life.

Kosick’s athleticism was apparent to coaches during high school. He played defensive and offensive end as part of the Wildcat football team from 1990-1992. The JC lacrosse program valued him as a goalie from 1989-1995 and was state-ranked during his senior year. A three-sport athlete, Kosick was also a member of the JC swim team between 1989-1995.

During his sophomore year, Kosick faced a challenge in his life that could have derailed his love of physically competitive sports. A cancerous tumor in his leg was discovered which resulted in the amputation of the leg above his knee. After receiving chemotherapy treatments, a prosthetic leg, and hours of physical therapy to walk and run, Kosick returned to the pool to swim with the team and regain his confidence to be an athlete once more. Lacrosse was still a passion and the position of goalie which he had played prior to his diagnosis was the next challenge Kosick embraced.

Loving the outdoors, Kosick became a member of the United States Adaptive Alpine Ski Team and competed in the 1998 Paralympics in Nagano, Japan, where he placed fourth in the slalom. In the 2002 Paralympics in Salt Lake City, Utah, he placed fourth in the giant slalom. He has also shared his knowledge of alpine ski racing as a coach to 15-18-year-olds from 2003-2007.

Kosick is an avid hiker, obstacle course racer, and endurance athlete, competing in events of 50-plus miles. He has challenged himself through obstacle course racing (2011-2018) and was the first above-knee amputee to complete 50 miles at the World’s Toughest Mudder race. In 2018, he climbed a volcano in Ecuador called Mount Cotopaxi with other amputees which involved crossing a glacier with an ice ax to climb a 20,000-foot summit. This climb helped raise funds for the Range of Motion Project which supports amputees by providing prosthetics and braces to those without resources to access them.

So much of Kosick’s adult athletic history has included his love of endurance and trail racing.

Since 2011, he has competed in numerous obstacle, endurance, and trail races. One outstanding personal accomplishment of Kosick’s was the 2022 competition hike of 47 miles at the Grand Canyon from the south rim to the north rim and back to the south rim (R2R2R) in less than 24 hours for a show called ‘Beat Monday’ on Outside TV. Kosick called it an epic experience that he was grateful to have been invited to do.

Kosick’s other accomplishments include being inducted into the Greater Binghamton Sports Hall of Fame in 2020, serving as the company ambassador for Merrell footwear, Leki, and Shelta hats. He has coached boys’ lacrosse (2002-2006) and has been a coaching presence for his daughters’ lacrosse teams. Anytime Kosick can encourage others about the importance of sports in one’s life, regardless of what life throws your way, he is there to support them and be a role model.

Kosick is truly a hometown guy. In addition to being a JC graduate, he is a Binghamton University graduate and works as a social worker in the Susquehanna Valley Central School District and resides in Endicott with his wife and children.

The JC Hall of Fame Committee welcomes back Dan Kosick as a member of the 2023 Johnson City Wildcat Athletic Hall of Fame.